

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Dept.
Rushton Family

R U S H T O N

Bennett Jackson Rushton was born 4 February 1818 Orangeburg District, SC; died 2 February 1884 Jones Co. MS; buried in the Rushton Cemetery in Jones Co.. He was a brother of Joseph Rushton (b. 1810 Orangeburg Dist., SC; d. 1868 in Randolph Co. AL) who was married in Chambers Co. AL to Martha Jane Lorange (b. 1821; d. 1894; sister of Emaline Lorange).

Bennett Jackson married 26 September 1834 in Chambers Co. AL, Emaline Lorange (b. ca. 1817 GA; d. after 1860 in Jones Co. MS). Emaline and Martha Jane Lorange were daughters of Samuel M. C. Lorange and his wife, Flora Cameron, and granddaughters of James Cameron (buried in the Long Cane Cem., Troup Co. GA) and Sarah Brown.

Bennett J. Rushton, like his brother, Joseph, was a potter by trade. This trade was also passed on to Obulus (Obie) Rushton, son of Bennett.

The family of Bennett was not listed in the 1840 census of Chambers Co., although all of his children that were born through 1850 have been listed as being born in Alabama. The family moved into the state of Mississippi before moving into Texas for a few years and finally settling permanently in Jones County, Mississippi. In 1857 Bennett purchased land in Section 30, Township 9, Range 10 of Jones County, MS.

Bennett Jackson Rushton and Emaline Lorange were the parents of at least twelve (12) children:

- I. Obulus E. (Obie) Rushton b. 19 Aug 1835 AL; d. 27 May 1891 Jones Co., MS; bur. Rushton Cem., near Laurel; m. prior 1860 Mary E. ... (b. 15 Dec 1833; d. 27 Sept 1895; bur. Rushton Cem.). In 1857 and 1886 O. E. Rushton purchased land in Section 19, Township 9 Range 10 of Jones Co. and in 1885 he purchased land in Section 30, Township 9 Range 10.
- II. Edith S. Rushton b. ca. 1838 AL
- III. Nancy Rushton b. ca. 1839 AL
- IV. Prince C. Rushton b. 30 Oct 1841 AL; d. 21 Apr 1858 Jones Co. MS; bur. Rushton Cem.
- V. Saline Rushton b. ca. 1846 AL
- VI. Albert B. C. Rushton b. ca. 1848 AL
- VII. Amanda C. Rushton b. ca. 1850 AL
- VIII. Flora J. Rushton b. 4 Jan 1852 MS; d. 8 June 1908; bur. Rushton Cem.; m. R. H. Windham
- IX. Ellen E. Rushton b. 19 July 1855 Daingerfield, TX (twin)
- X. Andrew Jackson Rushton b. 19 July 1855 Daingerfield, TX (twin); d. 15 Oct 1936 Jones Co. MS; bur. Rushton Cem.; m. 15 Oct 1879 Jasper Co., MS, Mary Elizabeth Buchanan (b. 16 Dec 1859; d. 10 Jan 1948; bur. Rushton Cem.; probably a sister of James A. Buchanan (b. 4 Aug 1856; d. 4 Nov 1907; bur. Rushton Cem.). Andrew Jackson purchased land in Sections 26 & 27, Township 9, Range 11 of Jones County in 1884.
 - A. Tyrus DeMervill Rushton b. 16 Apr 1884 Jones Co. MS; d. 11 July 1957 Jones Co. MS; bur. Rushton Cem.; m. 2 June 1905 Jones Co., Lena Pearl Hammett (b. 1 Sept 1885 Talladega Co. AL; d. 17 Oct 1948 Jones Co. MS; bur. Rushton Cem.). The Emma M. Hammett, wife of J. A. Hammett; born 14 Feb 1856; d. 22 Apr 1911; buried in the Rushton Cem., may be the mother of Lena.
 - i. Lillie Mae Rushton b. 13 June 1906 Jones Co. MS; m. Major Washington Pearson (d. 20 Nov 1967 Muscogee Co. GA; son of Nathan Pearson (b. 21 Oct 1861; d. 20 Aug 1941) and Emma McBride (b. 22 June 1866; d. 15 May 1931)).
 - a. Gladys Rae Pearson b. 12 May 1926 Saundersville, Jones Co. MS; m. Max Newton Walters, son of Newton Morgan Walters & Iva Mae Jenkins.

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Bennett Jackson Rushton & Emaline Lorange Continued:

X. Andrew Jackson Rushton & Mary Elizabeth Buckanan Continued:

A. Tyrus DeMervill Rushton & Lena Pearl Hammett Continued:

ii. Verdie Rushton m. ... (Six children: Alice, Alene,
Bardell, Herbert, Grady & Max)

iii. Grady Bennett Rushton m. Josephine Byrne

a. Beulah Rushton

b. Mary Rushton

c. Eva Ruth Rushton

d. Bennett Rushton

e. Bliss Rushton

f. A. D. Rushton

g. Jack Rushton

h. Milton rushton

iv. George E. Rushton

B. Sylvester Rushton d. ca. 1932 - No children

C. Ard Rushton m. ...

i. Ruth Orene Rushton

D. Omer Rushton - No children

E. Cora Rushton m. Blake Byrne

i. Ollie Byrne

ii. Addie Byrne

iii. Mary Elizabeth Byrne

iv. Gene Byrne

v. Frank Byrne

vi. W. J. Byrne

F. Iva Rushton m. William Henry Walters - Lived Atlanta, GA

i. Marvin Walters

ii. Wilma Walters m. Frank Chaffin

iii. Wilda Gay Walters m. ... Riley

XI. Hiram R. Rushton b. ca. 1857 MS

XII. Naomi Rushton b. ca. 1857 MS

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GENEALOGY COLLECTION
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John Ruslan
oak
file

MISSISSIPPI HOME-PLACES

Notes on Literature and History



ELMO HOWELL

OCEAN SPRINGS

The JOHN RUSKIN LIVE OAK

RUSKIN AVENUE, DOWNTOWN OCEAN SPRINGS. TAKE PORTE AVENUE IN THE CENTER OF TOWN, GO WEST TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE CORNER OF PORTER AND RAYBURN: GO LEFT ON RAYBURN ONE BLOCK TO CLEVELAND, THEN RIGHT ON BLOCK TO RUSKIN. THE OAK IS AT THE END OF RUSKIN ON THE RIGHT.

According to the story of the Ruskin Oak, an Englishman John B. Arnold, president of the Cotton Exchange in New Orleans, built a summer cottage beside this great live oak, and when John Ruskin came to the Cotton Exposition in New Orleans in 1885, he visited his friends in Ocean Springs and drank tea under the tree.

This legend—there is little evidence to back it up—has grown through the years and made the old live oak the scene of brilliant tea parties to honor the English author and provide good cheer, "with many beautifully set tables and tea cakes, with men (a few) and many beautiful ladies dressed in the period of the 1880's and 1890's."

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Whether or not John Ruskin visited Ocean Springs, the tree on Ruskin Avenue has interest as one of the oldest live oaks in the country and a member of the national Live Oak Society, as well as the local Société des Arbres. The Live Oak Society, with headquarters in Metairie, Louisiana, is devoted to the celebration of live oaks across the South and west to California.

I saw in Louisiana a live-oak growing,
All alone stood it and the moss hung down from the branches,
Without any companion it grew there uttering joyous leaves
of dark green.

Whitman's poem about a tree he saw "there in Louisiana solitary in a wide flat space" was the inspiration for an article with the same title by Dr. Edwin Lewis Stephens in 1934, which in turn led to the author's work in organizing the Live Oak Society.

Whereas the Live Oak is one of God's Creatures that has been keeping quiet for a long time, just standing there contemplating the situation without having very much to say, but only increasing in size, beauty, strength, and firmness, day by day, without getting the attention and appreciation that it merits from its anthropomorphic fellow-mortals; and

RINGS

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OCEAN SPRINGS

Whereas it has been found that organization and publication
are a good means of promoting influence and service in the
world; therefore

This Constitution for an universal association of Live Oaks
is hereby ordained and established.

Articles and by-laws follow the preamble. Officers and members
of the organization are the trees themselves (except the chairman),
which must be at least a hundred years old, as evidenced by a girth
of at least seventeen feet measured four feet above the ground. Each
member is represented by a sponsor or attorney—the owner or a
deputy—and the society provides application forms for registry of
new members. No member is whitewashed nor "desecrated with ad-
vertisements," nor destroyed "except by Act of the Legislature." A
Junior League was established for trees less than a century old.

The first President, always the oldest tree, was the Locke Breaux
Oak in St. Charles Parish, which after its death in 1966 was suc-
ceeded by the Seven Sisters Oak in Mandeville, Louisiana, where an
installation ceremony was held on May 11, 1968. Aside from whimsey,
the Society is a serious organization and now registers more than
six hundred trees from Virginia to California.

With a girth of more than twenty feet and a commemorative
poem engraved on a plaque, the Ruskin Oak is an honored member
of this organization, one of many in Mississippi, including three
others mentioned in this work: the Friendship Oak in Long Beach,
Bellman Oak in Biloxi, and Jefferson Davis Oak in Woodville.